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DESERT TELEGRAPH AND POSTOFFICE BUILDING

Rockville, Washington County, Utah.

HABS

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Southwest District

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Lewis Telle Cannon, District Officer,
506 Templeton Building,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

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UTAHDESERT TELEGRAPH AND POSTOFFICE BUILDING
Rockville, Washington County, Utah.

27-ROCKVILLE

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Owner: Roswell De Mille.

Date of Erection: Circa 1858.

Architect: Unknown (probably none).

Builder: ~~David Stone~~ UNKNOWN.

Present Condition: Fair; appearance unchanged except for demolition of one story east wing and minor repairs.

Number of Stories: One and two.

Materials of Construction: Foundations, stone; floors, wood; exterior walls, stone and frame; interior walls, frame; roof, pitched shingle and flat metal; trim, wood; fireplaces, stone; chimneys, stone; original condition unchanged except that new shingles have been added to pitched roof recently and minor repairs made to building.

Other Existing Records: None.

Additional Data: Sandstone, of the chinle formation, obtained from nearby quarries was used in the foundations, exterior walls of the main building, fireplaces and chimneys. It was laid in adobe mortar originally, but has been repointed recently with lime mortar. The roof over main building and rear wing is cedar shingles laid on tight sheathing boards supported by 2" x 4" rafters. There is no ceiling in the second story. The roof over the one story west wing is a flat metal roof laid on tight sheathing boards supported by 2" x 10" joists. The ceiling is 3/8" x 6" boards with 1/4" x 1" battens. These are unpainted. The exterior frame walls of the first story of rear wing and the one story west wing were filled with small adobe brick laid in adobe mortar. These were fitted between the studding and were plastered on the inside face of the wall with adobe plaster. The demolished east wing, similar to the existing one story west wing, was similarly constructed. The windows, doors, frames, siding, shingles, mantels, millwork, hardware, etc., were hauled by wagon train from Salt Lake City.

The two fireplaces have been closed recently with adobe brick and plastered over with lime plaster.

UTAH
27-ROCKVILLE

The interior was originally plastered with adobe plaster. In recent repair work lime plaster has been used.

New shingles have been applied to the pitched roof over main building and rear wing.

The building is essentially unchanged except for the demolition of the one story east wing, new shingle roof, closing up the fireplaces, some new lime plaster on the interior and minor repairs.

After the establishment of "Zion", now Salt Lake City, in 1847, the parties sent out by Brigham Young, president of the Mormon Church, to locate and select suitable sites for settlements, established the village of Rockville, where plenty of good water was to be had and the surrounding country was suitable for agriculture and stock raising.

The building was one of the Deseret Telegraph Company's stations of the southern Utah settlements and was also the post office for the village of Rockville. It was used as a telegraph and post office for many years and was the residence of the telegraph operator and postmaster.

The building is owned and occupied by Roswell DeMille, who says he assisted in its construction.

References:

Roswell DeMille, Rockville, Utah;
Mabel Jarvis, St. George, Utah;
J. H. Chase, Hurricane, Utah.



Trent Thomas,

Architect in Charge, HABS, Southwest Unit.

Approved Oct. 28th, 1940.



Lewis Telle Cannon,
District Officer.

TW 11/6/40